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House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. HIRONO).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 15, 2008.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MAZIE K. HIRONO to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2007, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROYCE. Madam Speaker, I am rising today to speak about the consequences of some 80 percent of oil reserves around the world now being controlled by a foreign cartel, a foreign cartel that works in concert with Russia. And if you take Russia into the mix, you now have over 90 percent of the oil reserves of the oil that's being pumped around the world controlled by this cartel, OPEC.

Now, many of us remember when Aramco was nationalized, where the U.S. fields were seized in Saudi Arabia. And we remember when British Petroleum in Iran was nationalized by that government. Not too many years ago, Hugo Chavez seized the European oil companies, their derricks, off the coast of his country.

This is a phenomenon that, as it has occurred, has allowed, according to our former CIA Director Jim Woolsey, the cartel to pick a price. And what he suggested some years ago to us in the Congress was that there was an attempt to set that price at \$140 a barrel of oil. And, specifically, what the cartel did, what OPEC did, was to curtail production in order to drive up the price.

Frankly, we need a long-term and a short-term solution to this problem. The long-term solution is to continue the investment in lithium-ion batteries that the market is driving and continue incentives for hybrids so that we reach the point where you can actually go 100 miles per gallon of gasoline used because the first 40 miles that you would use to go to work typically or back will be off a battery. In other words, his argument is that long-term electricity is going to be the solution to this by converting the economy, which today 95 percent of the transportation costs dealing with fuel are petroleum, converting that over to electricity.

But that's 10 years out. And in the meantime, we have a short-term solution that we need in order to break this cartel's ability to hold that price as high as they hold it. And as the price began to dip down the last few weeks, you saw the cartel again doing what? Saying they were going to, again, curtail production in order to increase the price of gasoline. This represents, according to the former CIA Director, a \$10 trillion transfer in wealth over the next 10 years out of this economy into their economy, billions of dollars every day going into their sovereign wealth funds in Saudi Arabia or throughout the Persian Gulf and some of it also going into the madrassas, the special religious schools that they're setting up across Central Asia, across Africa, even in Europe, which, frankly, are radicalizing a younger generation.

So how do we take some of the profit out of this? What we do, frankly, is we

lift that moratorium on drilling. And our hope on the Republican side was that we might see a series of moratoriums which were put in place lifted.

One which was put in place a little over a year ago was the moratorium on using oil shale from Wyoming and Utah and Colorado. We have more oil shale in this country by threefold in terms of what the Saudis have in reserves in the Persian Gulf. So with 2 trillion in oil shale reserves, frankly, we could do a lot. But there has been a moratorium put by those who do not want to burn fossil fuels.

Then we have the moratorium on drilling offshore. We know that the Cubans are drilling off the coast of Florida; we're not allowed to drill off the coast in those waters.

We know that in the Arctic we have Gazprom, which was nationalized, seized by the Russian government a few years ago. They're bringing their two biggest derricks up to the Arctic. They're going to drill, whereas we can't expand in Alaska, in the Arctic, and drill there on the U.S. side.

So what we are witnessing is the fact that we have hamstrung our ability. Gasification, as the South Africans use a process to transfer coal into gasoline, a moratorium on that. Nuclear, well, France has 80 percent of its grid supported by nuclear power. In my State, California, it's 12.5 percent, and there is no chance of getting more because of the restrictions and moratoriums. And, frankly, when a lease is let, there is a lawsuit that follows it instantaneously.

So the question I have is why are we moving legislation which purports to lift only one of these moratoriums, which is the drilling offshore, but with it says that no State can take a percentage of the profits of that drilling to help its State budget? All that guarantees is that no State will allow drilling offshore. Right now if you're in the State of Louisiana and you have a certain area where drilling is occurring,

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

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part of that goes back to the State of Louisiana.

The fact is that this measure, this legislation, will prevent, will absolutely stop any State from going forward and allowing additional drilling. And that's what it's intended to do because the intention is not to have any energy produced in the United States, not to create jobs here, and not to help the inflation that, frankly, is being driven right now by these high energy prices. And I am very concerned about it.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 38 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CUMMINGS) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Lord God Almighty, after another weekend as a hurricane watch, we pray for all those whose lives and belongings have been affected by floods and collapsed infrastructure. May You strengthen the efforts of emergency workers and stir generous hearts in many others to come to their aid and help them repair their communities.

Bless the work of Congress this week both here in Washington and in the district offices. Grant discernment of spirits in these days, that what is best for this Nation may be done and ways of peace, security and creativity may be found that will give glory to this Nation and Your Holy Name now and forever.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. BORDALLO led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the following enrolled bill was signed by the Speaker on Thursday, September 11, 2008:

H.R. 6532, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to restore the highway trust fund balance.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

JACKSON GULCH REHABILITATION ACT OF 2008

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3437) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to carry out the Jackson Gulch rehabilitation project in the State of Colorado, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3437

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Jackson Gulch Rehabilitation Act of 2008".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **ASSESSMENT.**—The term "assessment" means the engineering document that is—

(A) entitled "Jackson Gulch Inlet Canal Project, Jackson Gulch Outlet Canal Project, Jackson Gulch Operations Facilities Project: Condition Assessment and Recommendations for Rehabilitation";

(B) dated February 2004; and

(C) on file with the Bureau of Reclamation.

(2) **DISTRICT.**—The term "District" means the Mancos Water Conservancy District established under the Water Conservancy Act (Colo. Rev. Stat. 37-45-101 et seq.).

(3) **PROJECT.**—The term "Project" means the Jackson Gulch rehabilitation project, a program for the rehabilitation of the Jackson Gulch Canal system and other infrastructure in the State, as described in the assessment.

(4) **SECRETARY.**—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Commissioner of Reclamation.

(5) **STATE.**—The term "State" means the State of Colorado.

SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF JACKSON GULCH REHABILITATION PROJECT.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to the reimbursement requirement described in subsection (c), the Secretary shall pay the Federal share of the total cost of carrying out the Project.

(b) **USE OF EXISTING INFORMATION.**—In preparing any studies relating to the Project, the Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable, use existing studies, including engineering and resource information provided by, or at the direction of—

(1) Federal, State, or local agencies; and

(2) the District.

(c) **REIMBURSEMENT REQUIREMENT.**—

(1) **AMOUNT.**—The Secretary shall recover from the District as reimbursable expenses the lesser of—

(A) the amount equal to 35 percent of the cost of the Project; or

(B) \$2,900,000.

(2) **MANNER.**—The Secretary shall recover reimbursable expenses under paragraph (1)—

(A) in a manner agreed to by the Secretary and the District;

(B) over a period of 15 years; and

(C) with no interest.

(3) **CREDIT.**—In determining the exact amount of reimbursable expenses to be recovered from the District, the Secretary shall credit the District for any amounts it paid before the date of the enactment of this Act for engineering work and improvements directly associated with the Project.

(d) **PROHIBITION ON OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE COSTS.**—The District shall be responsible for the operation and maintenance of any facility constructed or rehabilitated under this Act.

(e) **LIABILITY.**—The United States shall not be liable for damages of any kind arising out of any act, omission, or occurrence relating to a facility rehabilitated or constructed under this Act.

(f) **EFFECT.**—An activity provided Federal funding under this Act shall not be considered a supplemental or additional benefit under—

(1) the reclamation laws; or

(2) the Act of August 11, 1939 (16 U.S.C. 590y et seq.).

(g) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to pay the Federal share of the total cost of carrying out the Project \$8,250,000.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Guam (Ms. BORDALLO) and the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Guam.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Guam?

There was no objection.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Ms. BORDALLO asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BORDALLO. The Mancos Project delivers water from Jackson Gulch Dam to residents, farms and businesses in Montezuma County, Colorado. The project and the Jackson Gulch Dam provide supplemental agricultural water for about 8,650 irrigated acres and at least 237 agricultural businesses. The project is also a domestic water supply for the Mesa Verde National Park.

For almost 60 years, the project has outlived its expected life and is in dire need of rehabilitation. This bill will aid the repair and the rehabilitation of this vitally important project in southwestern Colorado.

I would like to commend our colleague from Colorado, Congressman JOHN SALAZAR, for his hard work on